

The committee to whom were referred the petition of het [sic] inhabitants of the Kaskaskies and its vicinity, and the papers relative thereto, report ...

The **COMMITTEE** to whom were referred the **PETITION** of het **INHABITANTS** of the **KASKASKIES** and its **VICINITY**, and the **PAPERS** relative thereto,— **REPORT**,

THAT the commissioner to be appointed by Congress agreeable to their resolution of the February last, be invested with full power to examine into the titles and possessions of those inhabitants of the country whose rights were designed to be saved by the treaty entered into with them by general Clarke. To judge of them upon the best evidence which he can collect, and to be governed therein by the laws and customs which have heretofore prevailed among them. Always inclining to support antient possessions against recent claims.

That he cause to be surveyed every tract of land so claimed or possessed, a record of which survey shall be kept in the office of the clerk or register to be appointed for that purpose, which shall be satisfactory evidence of title, unless an appeal is lodged within four months from the time of making such record; in which case such appeal shall be tried by courts to be instituted on the future organization of the government of that country.

That he adjust interfering claims among the settlers, subsequent to the date of the aforesaid capitulation, in such mode as he conceives most equitable; that he assign lands as well to those as to others who shall migrate thither; provided that no lands be assigned to any other than to settlers, and not more than acres to each family; and that the persons occupying such lands, agree to pay therefor, such consideration as Congress may direct, when the federal land office shall be opened in such state—that he mark out convenient districts, and summon the inhabitants of each to elect three or more magistrates, who

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shall be invested with power and authority to here and determine all civil controversies not relative to the property in lands, agreeably to the laws, usages and customs that prevail in such districts. That the commissioner with not less than three of the said magistrates, the whole being summoned and having a right to attend, be a court of criminal jurisdiction; provided that the punishment to be adjudged by the said court, shall in no case extend to the loss of life, limb or member, except where such punishment might legally have been inflicted by the laws that heretofore prevailed in the late colony and now state of Virginia; and provided also, that at least three fourths of the magistrates, and the said commissioner, concur in the sentence.

That the commissioner with the advice and consent of the above magistrates, appoint executive officers in the respective districts, to carry their decrees into execution.

That he explain to the inhabitants of the said district, such resolutions and proceedings of the United States in Congress as respect the same, and endeavour to form their habits for the reception of a free republican government.

That he preserve peace with the Indian nations, not permitting any settlement upon their lands until a previous purchase has been made from them, with all due solemnity.

That he arrange officers, and command the militia of the district, taking such posts as may be necessary for their protection and security. That he make early and accurate returns to Congress, of the nature, advantages and disadvantages of the country, the number of its inhabitants, their military force, their customs and their dispositions with respect to the United States—their wealth, agriculture and commerce. That he extend his enquiries to the settlements in his vicinity on the western side of the Mississippi, and make returns to Congress of the result thereof, relative to all the objects abovementioned.

That previous to his entering upon office, he take and subscribe an oath of fidelity to the United States, and for the true and faithful discharge of the above powers, before the

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commanding officer at Fort-Pitt, who is empowered to administer the same, and directed to transmit a copy thereof to the secretary of Congress.

That he continue in office three years unless sooner discharged by Congress.

That a secretary who shall act as register of the said district, be appointed by Congress, to attend the said commissioner, and discharge the duties above assigned to the register. That he continue in office three years, unless sooner recalled by Congress.

That the yearly salary of the said commissioner be dollars, including his expences.

That the yearly salary of the secretary, including his expences, be dollars.

That the secretary in the war-office furnish the said commissioner with 25 men out of those already inlisted, and that the commissioner endeavour to engage them to re-enlist for the term of two years.

passed Mr. Johnson